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MR. SPEAKER: It is perfectly in order if the Hon. Minister gets up to answer that question. But it may not be in order to put a long supplementary question, advancing arguments.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Sir, I can only say this much in answer to the supplementary question, namely, that Government will see that no exploitation of the workers by the management is resorted to, to the extent possible.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR: Sir, may I know whether the Government have issued any clear, unambiguous and unmistakable instructions to the management concerned that to whichever Union the worker may belong, seniority in past service should be taken into account when making fresh appointments in the new mills?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: As I have already explained, the Government cannot issue any mandatory instructions, but in the presence of the hon. Member who is the President of the previous Union and in the presence of one of the representatives of the management, we had a thorough discussion and an understanding was arrived at that the management will take mostly the ex-workers of the Union, perhaps with the exception of a few individuals.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Sir, are the Government aware that when new workers are taken, workers with more service are taken as temporary workers and apprentices and are the Government also aware that the workers are not paid according to the Venkataramanayya Award and in accordance with the scales of pay paid in other mills not only in Malabar but also in Tamil Nad? Will the Government be pleased to set right these matters immediately?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I would once again request the hon. Member to bear in mind the basis on which the whole thing has to be looked into. We cannot issue any mandates, but at the same time, if there is any grievance that the minimum wages are not paid to the workers, the Government will look into the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Nos. 2800 and 2801 will be taken up together.

Labour disputes

9 20 a.m. * 2800 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the 68 workers of Mahaganapathi Mills, Pudukkottai, have been reinstated as per the 1954 award of the Madurai Industrial Tribunal?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The Pudukkottai Mill Labour Union and the management of Mahaganapathy Spinning Mills, Limited came to a settlement according to which

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the management reinstated 63 out of the 68 workers with effect from 16th July 1955 and the rest of the workers would be reinstated in future vacancies.

* 2801 *Q.*—Sri N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have sanctioned in March 1955, the prosecution of the management of the Ganapathi Mills, Pudukkottai, for not implementing the Madura Industrial Tribunal Award of 1954 to reinstate 68 retrenched workers; and

(*b*) whether the prosecution has been launched?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (*a*) & (*b*) The Government sanctioned in March 1955 the prosecution of the management of the mills for having changed the conditions of service of the workers and thus contravening section 33 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. In pursuance of clause 8 of the Memorandum of Settlement, dated 26th May 1955, arrived at by the Pudukkottai Mill Labour Union and the management of the Mahaganapathi Mills, the Government have, however, stayed proceedings of the prosecution.

As regards the reinstatement of the 68 retrenched workers the attention of the hon. Member is invited to my answer to his question No. 2800 (answered on 24th November 1955).

Sri N. K. PALANISAMY: இந்த அவார்ட் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது 1954-ம் வருஷம் மே மாதத்தில். ஸ்டே கொடுக்கப்பட்டது 1954-ம் வருஷம் ஆகஸ்ட் மாதத்தில். ஆனால் ஸ்டே கொடுத்ததற்குப் பிறகு ஸ்டே வகேட் செய்யப்பட்டது. அதற்குப் பிறகு சர்க்கார் ஒன்றும் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கவில்லை. இண்டஸ்டிரியல் டிஸ்பூட் ஆக்ட் 29-வது செக்ஷன் பிரகாரம் அவார்ட் பாஸ் செய்து பதினைந்து நாட்கள் வரையில் அமுல் நடத்தாமல் இருந்தால் மில் முதலாளிகளின் பேரில் நடவடிக்கை எடுத்து பிராசிகூஷன் பண்ணவேண்டுமென்றிருக்கிறது. இப்படியிருந்தும் சர்க்கார் என் முதலாளிகளின் பேரில் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கவில்லை? இதைப்போலவே அநேகம் முதலாளிகள் அவார்ட் பாஸ் பண்ணிய பிறகு மேல் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்காமல் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் மேல் என் சர்க்கார் நடவடிக்கை எடுப்பது இல்லை?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: சர்க்கார் இந்த விஷயத்தில் முதலில் பிராசிகூஷன் சாங்க்ஷன் செய்தார்கள். ஆனால் அதற்குப்பிறகு தொழிலாளர்களும் முதலாளிகளும் சேர்ந்து "நாங்கள் சமாதானம் செய்து கொள்ளுகிறோம்" என்று சொன்னதனால் நடவடிக்கை எடுப்பது நிறுத்திவைக்கப்பட்டது.

* 2802 *Q.*—Sri R. S. ARUMUGAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any petition from the Secretary, Thesiya Panjalai Tholilalar Union, Ganapathy Mills, Thalaiyuthu, on 19th July 1955 regarding the compulsory discharge of some mill labourers by the management by obtaining their signature in blank papers with the help of the police and using them as resignation letters; and

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken on the petition?